

close on the committee amendments?

SENATOR CONWAY: I think we can just attach the committee amendments, if we have the votes to do so?

SENATOR LABEDZ: We're voting on the committee amendments to LB 318. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on the committee amendments. Please vote. It's getting very difficult to obtain the necessary votes for advancement. Senators, please return to the floor. We're voting on the advancement of committee amendments to LB 318. We need your cooperation. Mr. Clerk, record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Madam President, on the adoption of the committee amendments.

SENATOR LABEDZ: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Conway, on the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Madam Speaker. We are in a situation here now where we've adopted the committee amendments, in essence, as I mentioned before, the committee amendments theoretically are the same in concept as the bill, using some different language to accomplish such. We had in Nebraska, prior to 1987, in essence, these provisions, what they allow individuals to do that are working for employers that are not mandated to do this at the federal level. Employers that have 20 employees or less are not mandated under the federal code and I think we inadvertently thought that everyone fell under COBRA when it was passed and, through some clean-up provisions, we inadvertently struck the language that we had been living under before. What, in essence, it does, it allows an employee who has been terminated from his employment, if he pays the entire cost, plus an additional up to 102 percent of the total cost of his premium, he can continue his health insurance under that group plan, if he was a member of that group plan prior to the termination. He can continue that insurance for another six months. If he has been terminated by virtue of being deceased, his dependents and spouse can continue by paying up to 102 percent of that premium so that the cost is not borne by the employer but by the individuals, can stay as a member of that group health plan for up to one year. Like I say, it's not a new provision, it's something we lived under in Nebraska prior to our inadvertently striking that language in 1987 in that legislation. So I would offer this to the body and hope that